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Calendar No. 974

82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1023

PROVIDING FOR THE CONVEYANCE TO THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA OF THE CURRITUCK BEACH LIGHTHOUSE RESERVATION, COROLLA, N. C.

OCTOBER 18 (legislative day, OCTOBER 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

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OCT 29 1951
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Mr. HOEY, from the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 5230]

The Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5230) providing for the conveyance to the State of North Carolina of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation, Corolla, N. C., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

This bill (H. R. 5230) would authorize the Administrator of General Services, upon payment of $3,000 to transfer by quitclaim deed to the State of North Carolina all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to all lands constituting the Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation situated at Corolla, N. C., together with the buildings and other improvements thereon. An exception is made from this conveyance of a rectangular portion of this reservation of approximately 0.82 of an acre with ingress and egress thereto. The United States Coast Guard maintains a lighthouse and two additional structures on this locale.

H. R. 5230 further provides that this transfer shall contain a recapture clause to the benefit of the Federal Government in the event the property is not used for muskrat experimentation, research, recreation, or other public purposes.

A further proviso in the instrument of conveyance reserves to the Carolina-Virginia Coastal Highway Corp. necessary rights-of-way and easements as may be required for the construction, maintenance, and repair of a toll road across the Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation. The language of this provision has been drafted to cover

the completion of a toll road across the Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation.

Reservation to the Virginia Electric & Power Co. of a perpetual easement and right-of-way across the Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation as may be required has been provided for by H. R. 5230. This assures an electrical distribution line together with such easement rights and privileges for construction, operation, and maintenance of poles and wire lines across the said Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation.

BACKGROUND FOR THIS PROPERTY TRANSFER

The Currituck Beach Lighthouse Reservation was declared surplus to the needs of the Lighthouse Service in 1938 and subsequently was assigned to the control of the National Park Service. Excepted from this declaration was an area of slightly less than 1 acre on which the light tower operated by the United States Coast Guard is located. In 1950 the United States National Park Service relinquished control of the main part of this reservation to the General Services Administration.

The State of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has found that the property in question is peculiarly adapted to the conduct of its experimentation in muskrat propagation.

It is felt that since this property was acquired from the State of North Carolina in the first instance that as against all others and in the continuation of a public purpose that the State of North Carolina should receive primary consideration, especially in view of their desire to pay the Federal Government one-half of the fair value of the property conveyed. This special legislation was necessary to make certain this result. An offer of public sale by the General Services Administration of this property would have produced a transfer of this land free and clear of any limiting or restricting provisos such as are contained in this bill. H. R. 5230 contains several means available for the protection of the necessary interest of the Federal Government for maintenance of aids to navigation and recapture in the event that it is not placed to public use.

AGENCY COMMENTS

Favorable recommendation of H. R. 5230 was made by the Comptroller General of the United States, Bureau of the Budget, Administrator of the General Services Administration, and Treasury Department.

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